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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE WRENTHAM
STATE SCHOOL

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1924

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL DISEASES



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

TRUSTEES OF THE WRENTHAM STATE SCHOOL

ALBERT L. HARWOOD, <i>Chairman</i> , New-	GEORGE W. GAY, M.D., Newton
ton	HERBERT PARSONS, Newton
ELLERTON JAMES, <i>Secretary</i> , Nahant	ANNIE C. ELLISON, Belmont
MARY STEWART SCOTT, Brookline	THOMAS H. RATIGAN, Boston

OFFICERS FOR 1923-24

GEORGE L. WALLACE, M.D., *Superintendent*.
NEIL A. DAYTON, M.D., *Assistant Superintendent*.
MILDRED A. LIBBY, M.D., *Senior Assistant Physician*.
ALICE M. PATTERSON, M.D., *Senior Assistant Physician*.
RAYMOND A. KINMONTH, M.D., *Senior Assistant Physician*.
GENEVIEVE GUSTIN, M.D., *Assistant Physician*.
JOHN A. NASH, D.M.D., *Dentist*.
PERRY E. CURTIS, *Steward*.
CLARA S. BLOIS, *Matron*.
SARA M. CLAYLAND, *Chief Clerk and Treasurer*.
ALICE RAYMOND, *Head Social Worker*.
HAWLEY P. FOSTER, *Social Worker*.
RUTH A. PROUTY, *Psychologist*.
IRA H. BENNETT, *Chief Operating Engineer*.
FREDERICK T. W. BOYD, *Foreman Mechanic*.
FRED HEFFRON, *Head Farmer*.

MEDICAL CONSULTING SPECIALISTS

DR. GEORGE T. VOGEL, *Laryngologist*.
DR. H. B. C. RIEMER, *Oculist*.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

To the Department of Mental Diseases.

The Trustees of the Wrentham State School respectfully submit their eighteenth annual report.

The history of the school easily divides into three stages, none of them exactly defined as to time but quite clear in distinctive features. Established by act of the legislature of 1906 as the second of the state's institutions for the care of the feeble-minded, its first years were occupied by construction on a plan that at the outset was definite for the ultimate institution but in this period confined to building for housing and serving the growing inmate population. The training feature, while given recognition from the start, was subordinated in point of accommodations, with use of basements for industry, more or less temporary quarters for school work, and no assembling of the children for the important feature of entertainment. Hence the next era of development of training facilities, the complete quarters for actual schooling, the provision of the two industrial buildings and the addition of the essential Assembly Hall.

The third period is the present one of the development by such additions and extensions as will bring to a fuller usefulness all these fundamentals in order that the school may fulfil the purpose of the Commonwealth as to the problem class for which the school exists and the adjustment, which progressive study of possible usefulness has compelled, of the school to the community. Whatever satisfaction the trustees, the administration and the department have taken in the Wrentham development in its earlier and more distinctly physical features, it is surpassed by the later one. Such a school is no longer thought of as a thing apart, a receptacle, an end of the path, but as having a place in the broader project of a competent and an inclusive social dealing with the better comprehended care of the mental defectives.

The year for which we now give account has been marked by less physically apparent expansion than those of the past but by the fuller utilization of the provisions made by the Commonwealth for a well balanced institution. The exten-

sion of the storage accommodations, in process at this time, will make possible a better system of warehousing and distribution. The completion of the stock barns and the reduction of the rough and wooded land about the new site of this department, along with the production of a new dairy herd have realized the gain that has come from what seemed the misfortune of the burning of the old barns, one of the memories attached to the former perilous presence of the older defective delinquent boys. The industrial buildings, flanking the auditorium as the more recently developed end of the campus,—one each for the boys and the girls,—have come into full use and are proving the very great value of the equipment for useful employment and practical training in ways that promote the chances of the return of these pupils to the community with a prospect of finding useful and happy places in its life.

When there is realized the inplay of a school like Wrentham into the general social economy, another feature, one which has not had attention, suggests itself. It is that the school may be an observation station for the more thorough study of the problems springing from the presence of the feeble-minded in the general population. The work of the institution is primarily individual. It must be kept chiefly so. The loss, which might be apprehended, of the fullest possible development in each of the persons committed here in any demand for mass results would be such a defeat of the humane design as to be regarded with nothing short of horror. It is due to the Massachusetts policy and the devoted service of those who are officially charged with its realization to say that there is no such loss of the individual objective in the midst of the large population of the schools.

If the notion that the mere segregation of those who are personal problems in the community and whose untreated presence there complicates a wide range of social disorders and difficulties had been permitted to guide or control the scheme, there would have been vastly less occasion for the pride the people now justly have in the record of accomplishment. The prime requisite is that it include not only care but education and training made thoroughly personal to every child in charge,—that it be constantly and studiously applied not only to the needs but to the potentialities, such as they are, of every individual life that comes within the institution's range.

Nevertheless, is there not here, the massing of human material which makes possible a valuable study of the sources of the problem? Out of it might there not come some discoveries as to those factors which contribute to continuing, still unsolved questions? If prevention is the challenging need, does not the school offer within itself an opportunity for study of the sources?

For example, there is a possible value in the examination into racial strains. To find that the contribution to the intake of the institutions is from certain groups, might serve to focus the preventive undertaking. We do not offer the nationality of the Wrentham inmate population as being conclusive but it is at least suggestive, as to one item in possible study. Of the 1547 inmates all but 75 were born in America. The nationality of the parents is known as to 1307. Of these 457 (35 per cent) had both American parents and 850 (65 per cent) were of full or half foreign parentage. There are certain nationalities whose representation is far out of keeping with the proportion of the race in the state's population. The detail is not presented at this time because the fact is stated only as an instance of a possible field.

Again, the relative responsibility of city and country communities in the attention that should be given to a pre-institutional dealing with the problem is indicated in the larger contribution from rural towns. Of 1521 inmates, 1151 came from the cities and large towns and 370 from small towns and country districts. Compared to population it appears that the ratio of those coming from rural to those coming from urban places is more than three to one,—from a given rural population 10 to 3 from the equal population in cities and large towns.

Other analyses seem to hold out attraction for particular study as contributing to useful knowledge, bearing on community dealing with feeble-mindedness, such, for further example, as the proportion coming from cities and towns that have equipped themselves with adequate special schools or classes for the mentally retarded. It is not to offer conclusions that the facts here stated are offered, however, but simply to enforce the suggestion that such studies have some attention.

Recommendations to the department for special appropriations by the legislature for the Wrentham School have already been communicated. They are only such as are necessary to keeping up the condition of the property and in minor ways to increase its usefulness rather than its capacity. The school is constantly crowded, has an impressive waiting list, and might be somewhat enlarged without over-population on the basis of its physical area—but that is an issue of general policy rather than the concern of the Wrentham School by itself.

As to the need of relief of the school from the presence of the defective delinquents outside the limits by age and sex thus far set, the trustees have all to say that they have said before and to say it with great urgency. The difficulties and harm resulting to the school as a whole from continuance here of the criminal type of girls and of boys under 17 years with the same complex are only the more disturbing the longer they are inflicted upon an institution where they are most mistakenly placed.

Not out of conformance to custom but because the facts compel it, we wish to acknowledge the devoted and expert service given the Commonwealth by the Superintendent who with loyalty to the school he has had the major part in building up to a high excellence has resisted all the wiles of other states in their pursuit of his services; and, as well, that of his medical and administrative co-workers.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT L. HARWOOD, *Chairman.*

MARY STEWART SCOTT.

ELLERTON JAMES, *Secretary.*

GEORGE W. GAY, M.D.

HERBERT PARSONS.

ANNIE C. ELLISON.

THOMAS H. RATIGAN.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

To the Trustees of the Wrentham State School.

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report for the year ending Nov. 30, 1924.

The movement of the population has been as follows:

	Males	Females	Totals
Remaining in the Institution Nov. 30, 1923.	452	815	1,267
New admissions within the year	89	103	192
Admitted from vacation and escape who were away at the close of last year	44	48	92
Whole number of admissions within the year	585	966	1,551
Dismissed within the year	54	72	126
Discharged	47	66	113
Died	7	6	13
Remaining in Institution Nov. 30, 1924	495	833	1,328

Of the 192 admissions during the year, the following table gives the ages in five-year periods:—

Admissions during the Year Dec. 1, 1923 to Nov. 30, 1924

	Males	Females	Total
Under 5 years	4	10	14
5 to 10 years	41	20	61
10 to 15 years	30	36	66
15 to 20 years	12	23	35
20 to 25 years	1	8	9
25 to 30 years	—	1	1
30 to 35 years	—	3	3
35 to 40 years	—	1	1
40 to 45 years	1	—	1
45 to 50 years	—	—	—
50 to 55 years	—	1	1
Totals	89	103	192

I am pleased to report that the health of the children has been uniformly good. While there have been a few sporadic cases of scarlet fever, measles and diphtheria, there has been no epidemic throughout the year. The low death rate, where there are so many feeble children is a testimonial to the good physical care that is provided. Inasmuch as mental deficiency is due to faulty brain development it can only be properly understood when observed from a medical viewpoint and, therefore, can only be properly dealt with when handled as a medical problem.

An institution, in order to successfully care and train the feeble-minded, must be a medically organized one. This means that wherever a boy or girl goes in the institution there also must go a physician. All departments of the institution are under medical supervision—dormitories, industrial rooms, school rooms, laundry, kitchens, bakery, storerooms, playgrounds, farm, and in fact, all activities of the school. This does not mean that the physician in any way relieves the heads of the departments of responsibility but it does insure that the work is carried on in sympathy with the conception of the work being primarily a medical one. When a child is brought to the school, he is received by a physician and assigned to the dormitory in which, in all probability, he will live. The following day he enters the classes and begins to take part in the various activities and interests of the community in which he is to live.

The following morning he visits the physicians at staff meeting; he is also examined by the dentist and appointments made for giving his teeth proper care. He is given a medical examination by the physician and within a few days is given an examination by the psychologist. He is vaccinated against smallpox, inoculated against typhoid, Schick tested and, if he reacts, is immunized against diphtheria. He is examined by the oculist, and glasses are furnished if needed. He is also examined by the laryngologist and tonsils and adenoids removed, if necessary. The physician makes a running note the day the child is admitted, 3 days after admission, 1 month after admission, then every 6 months as long as the child is in the institution.

The food in an institution must be provided, prepared and served in such a manner that it is not enough that it should contain the required number of calories and vitamins but shall also be so palatable and served in such a manner as to stimulate the social part of the person and produce that feeling of well being in the individual that cannot be obtained by the dispensing of the required amount of calories alone.

The clothing must be not only warm and comfortable but also well fitted and attractive and compare favorably with children's clothing in the community in order to stimulate the self-respect that is so fundamental in the development of character in children and young people. The dormitories, wards, playrooms, and class rooms, and, in fact, the whole physical environment of the children must be airy, bright and attractive. The walls must have pleasing colors, enlivened by numbers of good pictures. Ample opportunity must be given for all kinds of games, plays and entertainments. Not only must all as outlined be provided in abundance in order to obtain the best physical results but also the proper personnel must be provided that will insure the children receiving the personal affection and love without which small children will not thrive.

Work in the schools and industrial departments has been carried forward during the year with good results. The effect of the training that the children receive is noticeable among the children who remain in the school for a long period and it is especially noticeable in those leaving the school to go to their homes or to homes secured through the efforts of the Social Service Department.

The removal of the adult defective delinquent males from our institution has been most beneficial in its results. The whole standard of morale and discipline has been materially improved. I regret, however, that no arrangements have been made whereby the female adult defective delinquents can be removed as well as the juvenile defective delinquents. Both of these classes are still present although in comparatively small numbers, yet are most disturbing in their anti-social activities.

The policy of replacing the underground conduit system by a tunnel for carrying steam, hot water and electricity from the power house to the various buildings has been continued this year by the construction of an additional 800 feet. Approximately 2900 linear feet of tarvia road has been built, the standpipe has been painted

inside and outside and the foundation has been reinforced by a concrete buttress around its entire circumference. The interiors of 3 dormitories have been painted and refinished throughout. The new storehouse is nearing completion and will be occupied by early spring.

For another year the management at Paragon Park has been most kind in extending to our children free admission to the Park and in many other ways did they contribute to the children's enjoyment while visiting Nantasket Beach on their outings.

It is with pleasure that I report the appointment of Mr. Perry E. Curtis, as steward, at this institution on November 16, 1924.

This is a new position in the institution, up to that time the Superintendent having had no assistant in carrying on the business of the institution.

Mr. Curtis received training as assistant to the steward at the Foxboro State Hospital and was transferred from there to this institution.

For the reports of the Social Service Department, School Department, School Clinic and the Department of Dentistry, I respectfully refer you to the reports of the heads of these departments.

I herewith acknowledge the receipt of many beautiful presents that our children received at Christmas from both individuals and societies. I wish the donors could have seen the exquisite joy and happiness among our children as a result of their thoughtfulness.

The Catholic, Protestant and Jewish ministers have been untiring in their services, not only at the regular religious services but at all times whenever their ministrations could add comfort and happiness to the children.

The medical staff, teachers and officers and general employees have uniformly co-operated with me in carrying to the children the care, education and training which I believe has been of advantage to them, and I trust acceptable to your Board.

In closing this report I wish to thank every member of the Board for his continued support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE L. WALLACE, M.D., *Superintendent.*

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School.

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report for the year ending Nov. 30, 1924.

In our formal school work we have instructed 657 children. From the sense training classes through to the intermediate grades the work has been carried forward and the children have made satisfactory progress. The children derive a great deal of pleasure from being able to read and write and, therefore, this part of the school work is emphasized. In the primary grades this is correlated with handwork. The reading lesson is taught and the same sentences or words are copied from the board or written from dictation and finally the same story or idea is worked out with crayon or scissors.

The attention of a feeble-minded child is difficult to gain and hold. Many devices and plans are necessary in order to accomplish this. The work must be presented differently each day. The teacher must have a wealth of imagination and originality in order to make each lesson new.

The physical training classes reach a large number of children who derive much help and pleasure from them. The class work includes drills with Indian Clubs, dumb-bells and marching, calisthenics, apparatus work, aesthetic and folk dances. The classes for clumsy, sluggish children with poor coordination, are arranged so as to give much active work such as running, jumping, ball games and floor exercises. Some of the more advanced pupils are receiving training in aesthetic and folk dancing.

The work of the music department has been satisfactory. We have classes in vocal music for both boys and girls, as well as a mixed choir of adult voices which supplies music for the religious services on Sunday. The girls' orchestra supplies

music for concerts and dances. The boys' band has given several good concerts and provided part of the music for the Fourth of July celebration. From the beginners' classes in string and wind instruments we have advanced several to places in the orchestra or band. The piano classes are progressing. Many have advanced sufficiently to be able to play for their companions to dance during the evening recreation time. The Girls' Glee Club has assisted the orchestra and band in many concerts and on various special occasions.

In the Domestic Science classes we aim to give the girls who may be eligible for parole, an idea of the domestic needs of the average family. They are first instructed in habits of order and cleanliness, then each girl is taught to prepare and serve a simple breakfast, dinner and supper. A practical demonstration is given at the end of each term.

The woodworking rooms provide a means of expression to many boys. Some of the most difficult boys in school are the best workers in this department. The younger boys, using the coping saw, make toys, plant sticks, markers, etc. The more advanced classes are able to produce plant stands, book racks, lamp bases, and more advanced toys. The articles made in this room are sent to the several departments and it is a great satisfaction and joy to the boy to see his creation being used as a useful piece of furniture or for adornment.

The classes in printing have made good progress and do creditable work. They are able to print many of the institution forms and notices and also invitations and programs for the parties.

The library of books and victrola records has been added to very generously. We are able to keep the departments well supplied.

The religious services on Sunday have been carried on as usual. On Easter and Christmas the mixed choir has prepared and sung special music, assisted by professional talent. The younger and helpless children who are unable to go to the regular religious services have not been forgotten. A teacher, accompanied by a group of girls, goes to their dormitories and gives song services together with a story to mark Sunday.

The summer playground work has been conducted satisfactorily. Two teachers were kept busy during the day, visiting the smaller children, organizing and playing games with them. In the evening they supervised the ball games and other activities of the older children. Picnics were held for each department and excursions made to Nantasket Beach.

The social life of the school has been active during the year. In addition to the weekly moving picture entertainments and dances, several operettas have been given. In place of our usual Fourth of July circus an historical pageant—"The Pageant of the Pilgrims" in which several hundred boys and girls took part, was given.

It is very gratifying to note the help and co-operation that I have received from the teachers.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARL H. LITTLEFIELD, *Head Teacher.*

REPORT OF THE DENTAL DEPARTMENT

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School.

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report for the year ending Nov. 30, 1924. Examinations, 1052; treatment of stomatitis, 94; extractions, permanent, 337; extractions, deciduous, 192; pulp treatment, permanent, 237; pulp treatment, deciduous, 13; fillings, permanent, 1576; fillings, deciduous, 58; prophylactic treatment, 992; silver reduction treatment, 188; treatment of erupting teeth, 47; post-extraction treatment, 178; laboratory hours, 40; gold crowns, 1; porcelain crowns, 13; general anaesthesia, 2; local anaesthesia, 200; vulcanite dentures, 5; repaired dentures, 9; bridges, 4; radiograms, 138; ground teeth, 27; total patients, 2371; new patients, 150; dismissals, 915; total operating hours, 1404½; gold inlay, 10; bridges re-set, 3; gold inlay re-set, 3; gold crowns re-set, 1; removal of crowns, 1; treatment fractured process, 1; fractured jaw, 1.

The enlivening of public consciousness in certain communities to the serious

results frequently following neglected caries of the teeth, and diseased conditions of the periodontal tissues has supplemented those other measures taken towards prevention of disease and maintenance of public health; namely vaccination against smallpox, the use of the Schick test for susceptibility to diphtheria and immunization against this disease and typhoid fever.

So, the tooth brush, not so very long ago, by some considered merely as an article of the toilet to be used in a perfunctory manner, has in our present day come into its own and is rightly considered a valuable adjunct to the other safeguards of health and is consequently given the serious and conscientious attention that it merits.

The consciousness of our little community has been alive for some time to the important role dental hygiene plays as one of the many measures utilized toward prevention of disease; an unflagging interest and high enthusiasm is in evidence at all times where the health and happiness of those less fortunate is concerned.

The clean teeth awards for 1923 numbered more than a thousand, and were given to the children February 28, 1924 in the Assembly Hall. The school orchestra alternating with the glee club made up a program of instrumental and vocal selections which was very entertaining and started off the evening's activities auspiciously.

Following the musical selections Dr. Wallace gave a helpful and interesting talk, the keynote of which was dental hygiene—its efficacy as a means of offsetting certain forms of ill health; stressing the indispensability of dental hygiene as a factor in the field of preventive medicine; toward the furtherance of prevention,—the war cry of all medical authority at the present time, in its battle against the progress of disease. This little talk brought a lesson which I am sure has been an incentive both to children and employees present, toward renewed efforts on behalf of clean teeth. It brought home to them in a concrete way that the movement for improved condition of the children's teeth is sponsored by the head of our school and receives his seal of approval.

Previous to announcing the names of the recipients of the clean teeth award—a bronze colored button with purple inscription and purple ribbon attached—I took advantage of the opportunity to congratulate the children receiving the button as well as those employees who have by their conscientious supervision contributed to the health and happiness of their charges.

The evening's activities closed with the showing of an instructive motion picture sent us by the State Department of Public Health, entitled "Your Teeth," this was followed by a comic film which sent the children away happy.

Children who have been re-admitted frequently show that little or no attention has been given their teeth during their absence from the school. For this reason I shall be glad to prepare a concise list of instructions on the care of the teeth, to be given each child leaving the school for a period exceeding two weeks.

The teeth of the children newly admitted, as in the past show extreme lack of care, as a rule, many never having received dental attention of any nature. Over this situation, of course, we have no control; however, it is my hope and belief that the future development of the public dental clinic will eventually reach most of those children who so badly need its ministrations.

In accordance with my suggestion, I am pleased to note that the School now is purchasing a smaller size tooth brush. This smaller brush permits more thorough cleaning especially of those remote surfaces of the posterior teeth so frequently subject to decay and accumulation of food debris.

I checked the ratio of visits to dismissals of the girls in one dormitory recently; these girls gave their teeth good attention in the building. After about a year's absence when they were last dismissed, seventy-five out of one hundred and twenty-two girls were dismissed after one visit, none made more than three visits and many were dismissed on the second visit.

The number of cases of alveolar abscess during the past year has been very low; and about eight per cent of all operations for the year have been extractions, many new children needing this service. Vincent's infection, while not prevalent occurs occasionally among the children, mostly the younger boys. An interesting reference to the etiology of this type of stomatitis is that it rarely if ever occurs in mouths that are well cared for and is found more frequently among individuals

living in groups than otherwise. Cases that present ulcerations are given immediate hospital care, which is indispensable in the treatment of these children.

One case of fractured mandible was treated during the year and because I was able to see this case immediately after the injury, which occurred on the baseball field, it being a simple fracture, was reduced easily. An appliance was made later which permitted the patient to eat solid food three weeks after the date of injury. Recovery was uneventful.

Success in any worthy movement anywhere is written by the efforts of those individuals dominant in its progress; happily those who wilfully fall behind for whatever reason or no reason, are the minority. It is not expected, in the scheme of things generally, to find 100% perfection, but it is our duty and should be our desire to place our aspirations upon a high level, because it is only by having an ideal that we improve in respect to that ideal. One of our ideals here is the maintenance of clean teeth unreservedly, in the mouths of all the children in the school. It is probably a lot to expect, but let us expect it, and add new members to our growing list of clean teeth advocates.

The co-operative action, sympathy and whole hearted support shown by the Superintendent and members of the staff I wish here to acknowledge; their helpful attitude at all times, I greatly appreciate.

The efforts of matrons and attendants in the cause of dental hygiene elicit my hearty approbation; they are to be congratulated on results attained.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. NASH, D.M.D., *Dentist.*

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School.

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report for the year ending Nov. 30, 1924.

The character of the work done by the department shows no material change from that of the previous year. Investigations of requests made by relatives for children's visits, temporary or indefinite, have occupied much time. Many of these investigations revealed environmental situations which rendered placement hazardous for the child. Preventive work is thus the result of an investigation which involves a large amount of time. On the other hand, many investigations lead to happy placements. These coincide with another important phase of the social work,—namely, supervision of patients in the community. In the well planned case the supervision is undertaken after establishing contact with relatives, agencies, and employers in an attempt to build a wall of protection for the child. This need not be composed of too narrowing, restrictive material, however. Some of the best pieces of supervision are done by people who direct the defective child down a broad road bounded with invisible walls placed not far enough away to allow for too many excursions afield into the realms of emotional experiments.

Ample room for frequent turnouts, switchbacks and stopping stations must be allowed the child of low intelligence and rather unstable emotions.

Indirect supervision of the child living in the community is kept alive by frequent visits by the social worker to employers and relatives. The card record of parole supervision for the year shows fully as many visits of this character as those paid directly to the child. Many tangled situations are cleared by the help of mature, experienced people who agree with the social worker that it is unnecessary to plunge the child immediately into a confusion of conflicting ideals and opposing opinions. 325 visits direct to children and 653 visits to relatives, agencies and others have been made during the year.

The problems appearing in cases handled include those of environment, placement, employment, conduct, personal service, physical condition, and supervision as well as the more general problems of mental condition. A detailed analysis of cases is made each month for the Director of Social Work, Department of Mental Diseases, showing the purposes for which cases were considered, the outstanding problems, and nature of service rendered. A comparison with such reports from other state schools and hospitals shows the emphasis laid by this department on

home and social investigations and supervision. Other departments are doing additional work in school and mental clinics, in staff conferences, in education, in obtaining social histories, and in special studies. With a proportionate personnel there could be undertaken new work along these lines, and more intensive work in the present phases. Opportunity for early acquaintance with relatives of patients later fit for placement, with the accompanying possibility of obtaining valuable material for broad psychiatric social histories might thus be opened.

Acquaintance with the developments in the fields of family, children's and psychiatric social work has been made possible during the year by attendance at the monthly conferences of the State Department, at the annual conference of Massachusetts Social Workers, and at group conferences of the Division of Feeble-Minded, the Boston Conferences of Illegitimacy, the Boston Conference of Home Finders, etc. Personal conferences with the Superintendent, members of the medical staff, the psychologist at the school and the Department Director at Boston have been sources of genuine help and inspiration.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE RAYMOND, *Head Social Worker.*

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL EXAMINER

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School.

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report for the year ending Nov. 30, 1924.

The examinations completed this year (Dec. 1, 1923 to Nov. 30, 1924) fully equal in number those of the previous year. We have had excellent co-operation from the school authorities in obtaining data necessary for case history through the school nurses and teachers. We have not, in any case, been obliged to send one of our social workers for the necessary information. In the large majority of cases long, detailed family and other history is unnecessary, the ten point record sheets revealing the general background of the child and all facts essential for diagnosis.

We have endeavored to reach as many parents as possible, encouraging them to come at any time during the visit of the Clinic and to be present at the examination, if they wish. We encourage and invite their co-operation in order that they may understand that the aim and purpose of the Clinic is to be of help and give advice to the retarded and handicapped child, so that he may accomplish the most for his future usefulness.

During each year the Clinic has operated there have been fewer physical problems presented. Children in the public schools are, in general, well supervised, physically. School physicians, dentists and nurses, together with the State program for detailed reports of their observations, have made this possible, so that retardation from a physical cause is less frequently seen. The average citizen knows little or has but a vague idea of the many problems of mental defect and the number of mental defectives. Although the problems of feeble-mindedness have been much before the general public in this country for some time, a full understanding of their import is, however, not comprehended. With the establishment of the Mental Hygiene Movement and its Mental Clinics not only for the mentally sick but for those mentally retarded, connected with Hospitals, Courts and Public Schools, a wider knowledge is permeating the community so served to a better appreciation of the fact that such persons should have the proper recognition, consideration and training which is their due.

Much has been done and the work is still progressing. At times the goal seems distant. It has, however, been predicted that the time is not far off when all school children will be examined mentally as a part of the school program, just as they are physically. Mental defectives are everywhere about us; many are unrecognized. Charitable organizations spend yearly more than one-half of their funds in caring for these defective individuals, who are not self-supporting or fail in some way to adjust themselves in society. If these same persons had received special training and supervision in their early school life, it is felt that they would be less of a liability, but rather self-supporting and law-abiding citizens in the community.

Public demands are usually made possible. When the problem of mentally retarded children is fully recognized and public interest in their education aroused, adequate provision will be possible for their training in the school and for advisory home care. What is most needed is the right attitude of the public toward the mentally handicapped. A spirit of kindly sympathy and charity is above all paramount. This same attitude should be encouraged in the companions of such children, not allowing them to be teased, taunted and bullied by those about them more highly endowed. Nothing succeeds like success. Give a child a chance at success and he becomes a different person. The inferior child feels his own limitations. He becomes more and more discouraged when placed with a group with whom he cannot compete. Repeated failures not only tend to make him disheartened but lead to behavior difficulties.

It is important that a child's inability to progress with his class be early recognized. A certain proportion of children will, if given intensive training early, be able to adjust themselves to grade work. If hurried along in classes above their mental age, they are misfits and tend to become more backward. While we cannot measure as accurately mentally as physically we are approaching exact ratings as seen by the correlation charts, in which, in most cases, the work accomplished in school fully coincides with the mental rating.

There is a feeling by a few against the placement of children in a special class. This is entirely due to a lack of understanding of the work done in these classes. The pupils know perfectly well who are the bright ones and those who are dull and slow. A superior child is just as badly placed and has the feeling that he is much above the others in his ability and occupies too much the center of interest. The inferior child feels his own position, he does not enter into the spirit of his class nor does he volunteer, becoming more and more discouraged.

When a child is early having difficulties in the 1st and 2nd grades and after being two years in the same class he should have a mental examination. Adjustment between the ages of 8 and 11 is much easier made than later. Children of this group would then be classified for low primary work, with intensive training in phonics, simple number combinations and manual work. Later we recognize a group who have been able to progress to the 3rd or 4th grade. Here they meet work beyond their ability to grasp as rapidly as others. In this class the ages range from 11 to 16. In this group we find it to advantage to form two classes, one for girls and the other for boys, specializing on activities and manual work in which each group is most interested.

With a pleasing teacher, one interested in her work, who is distinctly human and sympathetic, reaching the better natures of her pupils, much can be done. A teacher with this background can work along the lines of mental hygiene and habit formation not only in the school room but her teachings will be reflected to a large degree on the playground and in the home.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE M. PATTERSON, M.D.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

To the Commissioner of Mental Diseases.

I respectfully submit the following report of the finances of this institution for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1924.

CASH ACCOUNT

Receipts

Income

Board of inmates:

Private \$1,233.00

Reimbursements, insane 2,088.98

\$3,321.98

Personal services:

Reimbursement from Board of Retirement	\$120.10
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Sales:

Travel, transportation and office expenses ..	\$67.69
Clothing and materials	198.61
Furnishings and household supplies	11.40

Farm:

Cows and calves	\$243.24
Pigs and hogs	8.00
Hides	117.52
Sundries	39.85
Repairs, ordinary.....	408.61
	56.73

Total sales	743.04
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Miscellaneous:

Interest on bank balances	\$14.65
Rent.....	96.00
Sundries	1,795.98

	1,906.63
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Total income	\$6,091.75
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MAINTENANCE

Balance from previous year, brought forward	\$2,301.99
Appropriation, current year	\$455,110.00
Additional appropriation, Personal services	3,800.00
Additional appropriation, cows.....	3,196.02
	\$462,106.02

Total	\$464,408.01
Expenses (as analyzed below)	452,214.89

Balance reverting to Treasury of Commonwealth.....	\$12,193.12
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Analysis of Expenses

Personal services	\$191,807.03
Religious instruction.....	1,320.00
Travel, transportation and office expenses	7,101.65
Food	97,049.00
Clothing and materials.....	23,825.18
Furnishings and household supplies	24,029.57
Medical and general care	9,109.18
Heat, light and power	34,493.62
Farm	25,073.99
Garage, stable and grounds	7,954.36
Repairs, ordinary	17,042.73
Repairs and renewals	13,408.58

Total expenses for maintenance	\$452,214.98
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SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS

Balance December 1, 1923	\$52,472.45
Appropriations for current year	34,430.00

Total	\$86,902.45
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Expended during the year (see statement below).....	\$21,966.96
Reverting to Treasury of Commonwealth.....	259.34
Balance November 30, 1924, carried to next year..	222,226.30
	\$64,676.15

OBJECT	Act or Resolve	Whole Amount	Expended during Fiscal Year	Total expended to Date	Balance at End of Year
Purchase of land (balance reappropriated).....	1922, chap. 129	\$230.00	—	—	\$230.00*
Purchase of Brightman property.....	1919, chap. 242	8,000.00	\$55.30	\$1,395.2	6,604.74
Boys' Industrial building	1922, chap. 129	40,000.00	1,653.57	39,970.66	29.34*
Storehouse	1923, chap. 126	35,000.00	13,333.76	13,333.76	21,666.24
Sewer beds	1922, chap. 129	.86	—	—	—
.....	1923, chap. 126	10,000.00	2,753.28	3,854.64	6,146.22
Employees' cottages	1924, chap. 126	30,000.00	25.65	25.65	29,974.35
Athletic field equipment	1924, chap. 126	2,500.00	2,472.54	2,472.54	27.46
Sprinklers	1924, chap. 126	1,930.00	1,672.83	1,672.86	257.14
		\$127,660.86	\$21,966.96	2,125.57	\$64,935.49
Balance reverting to Treasury of the Commonwealth*.....					\$259.34
Balance carried to next year					64,676.15
Total as above					\$64,935.49

PER CAPITA

During the year the average number of inmates has been, 1,278.65

Total cost for maintenance, \$452,214.89.

Equal to a weekly per capita cost of \$6,8013.

Receipt from sales, \$743.04.

Equal to a weekly per capita of \$0.0112.

All other institution receipts, \$5,348.71.

Equal to a weekly per capita of \$0.0803.

Net weekly per capita \$6.7098.

Respectfully submitted,

SARA M. CLAYLAND,
Treasurer.

VALUATION

Nov. 30, 1924

REAL ESTATE

Land (590 acres)	\$18,223.50
Buildings	1,202,694.56

\$1,220,918.06

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Travel, Transportation and Office Expenses	\$3,660.79
Food	22,460.13
Clothing and Materials	42,414.43
Furnishings and Household Supplies	132,303.89
Medical and General Care	11,658.72
Heat, Light and Power	18,828.92
Farm	20,189.08
Garage, Stables and Grounds	7,728.20
Repairs	11,924.29

\$271,168.45

SUMMARY

Real Estate	\$1,220,918.06
Personal Property	271,168.45

\$1,492,086.51